

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. The claim amendment also addresses the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection of claim 1.

The specification has been amended to introduce a BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS section and to correct the line spacing of the footnote of Table 1.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Broecker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,521,387) ("Broecker"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Broecker does not anticipate the subject matter of claims 1-3. Broecker does not disclose or suggest a "process for the selective removal of sulphur compounds from synthesis gas containing at least 5% carbon monoxide, at least 5% hydrogen, at least 0.5% carbon dioxide and water," as recited in amended independent claim 1. Broecker does not treat gases containing water and CO, as in the claimed invention, and as also explained by Applicant in the background section of the present specification (§[0023]).

In addition, Broecker does not disclose or suggest selective removal of sulphur compounds from synthesis gas "at a maximum contact temperature of 100°C," as claim 1 recites. As the gas compositions of Broecker do not contain water, these compositions have no potential for the water gas shift reactions and, thus, the temperature is not critical in Broecker.

Broecker also does not disclose or suggest a process for the selective removal of sulphur compounds from synthesis gas having a specific composition and "at a pressure

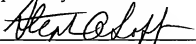
of at least 15 bar," as recited in amended independent claim 1. No pressure is defined in Broecker. In contrast, the claimed invention provides a method for removal of sulphur from gases that have a high potential for the water gas shift reaction. The catalyst claimed can only be used if the pressure and temperature are as claimed. Without observing these parameters, the CO will be consumed and the value of the gas decreased. Broecker neither mentions this problem nor suggests a solution for solving it. Broecker just refrains from purifying gases containing CO and water.

For at least these reasons, Broecker fails to anticipate the subject matter of claims 1-3, and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

Allowance of all pending claims is solicited.

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